

Fighting 13th



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The 13th MEU(SOC) Newsletter

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Coalition forces conduct amphib demo at Bright Star



Photo by Cpl. Chad Leddy

A Jordanian high-mobility multi-purpose wheeled vehicle disembarks from a landing craft unit during an Amphibious Capabilities Demonstration Sept. 13 during Exercise Bright Star. The exercise was designed to enhance the interoperability and cohesiveness of coalition forces through various training scenarios, to include amphibious and combined-arms operations.

By Capt. Amy Malugani

Public Affairs Officer
MUBARAK MILITARY
CITY, Egypt (Sept 15, 2005)
– Coalition forces participating in Exercise Bright Star successfully conducted an Amphibious Assault demonstration on the shore of the Mediterranean Sea, Sept 15. The demonstration is one of six major training evolutions planned throughout the six-week exercise in Egypt designed to enhance the cohesion and interoperability of

coalition forces.

Marines and Sailors from Expeditionary Strike Group One (ESG-1), Amphibious Squadron One (CPR – 1) and the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) worked closely with Greek, Egyptian and Jordanian forces to demonstrate the effectiveness of combined-joint operations from ship to shore.

Bright Star is a combined joint computer-aided command post exercise and a

field training exercise using tactical air, ground, naval and special operations forces designed to build understanding, friendship, cooperation and cohesiveness among coalition forces.

Army Gen. John Abizaid, U.S. Central Command commanding general, attended the amphibious demonstration to observe U.S. forces working hand-in-hand with coalition partners.

“It is important to demonstrate cooperation in this part of world, and the ability to fight when we have to,” he said. “We’ve demonstrated that today.”

The demonstrations began with an Egyptian Ranger company rapidly hitting the beach in twelve fast rubber assault boats, known as Zodiacs. As the Zodiacs hit the beach, the Rangers continued on foot to establish security on the beach for oncoming personnel and equipment.

Coalition aircraft provided simulated close air support and strike capabilities throughout

the demonstration as waves of ground forces assaulted the beach. One of the highlights of the demonstration was the support provided by the 13th MEU (SOC), Air Combat Element, Medium Helicopter Squadron 163 (REIN). Marine AV-8B Harriers and AW-1H Super Cobras, from Marine flew overhead demonstrating the effectiveness and capabilities of the Marine Air Ground Task Force.

Together with the U.S. Navy, the MEU serves as the nation’s forward deployed, quick response team, capable of accomplishing numerous missions around the world to include amphibious assaults, direct-action raids, demonstrations and withdrawal.

While coalition air assets providing high volume tactical air support to inhibit enemy maneuver and mobility, beach masters from Beach Master Unit One, CPR-1, directed landing craft and amphibious assault vehicles to the beach to

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13th MEU (SOC) welcomes new Chaplain to Command Element family.

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Amazing ... Two-page photo feature from Exercise Bright Star 2005!

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Does spirituality have a place in fast times?

Newest member to 13th MEU family invites you to seek the answer - in a turbulent world

By Navy Commander Val J. Jensen
13th MEU (SOC) Command Chaplain

The opportunity to serve once again with Marines is indeed an honor for my wife Kate and I.

Most recently, we have been with the Submarine Force of the United States Navy. They were a great seven years, as were the three years with 5th Battalion, 11th Marines we served beginning in 1986. After completing the tour with 5/11 at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center 29 Palms, Calif., we anticipated seeing another Fleet Marine Force assignment in the near future. It would take awhile, because we were called to a carrier, a destroyer squadron, chapel, two tenders, and submarines. All of those experiences were rewarding and, now we are back with the Marines. Finally it has happened and we are most privileged and pleased to

be a part of the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

We live in challenging and rewarding times.

Forces are engaged in numerous pursuits that had not taken place in recent years. Professionals called "futurists" speak of this phenomenon, often noting trends and how they impact on individuals, families, organizations and age-old institutions.

Take information for example. A few years ago information traveled relatively fast. Today information travels at remarkably greater speeds. What could not be done with computers a decade ago is



common place today. In the midst of this rapid turn of events is there a place for the spiritual? The answer is "yes."

We are spiritual beings and whether we live with slow or fast technology there is always room for meditation and religious growth.

Experts from different fields have thought that the tough times through which we are passing will be handled more effectively with the "spiritual element" engaged.

If you are in need of spiritual development, or looking for an effective way to manage the frustrations and stress that we face daily while engaged in operations, please consider the 13th MEU Religious Ministry Team. We are concerned with the "spiritual element" especially when it relates to quality of life issues. We invite you to contact us anytime.

13th MEU Marines, Sailors lend helping hands in Greece

By Cpl. Andy Hurt

Editor

RHODES, Greece (Sept. 21, 2005) – Twenty Marines and Sailors from the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) and the USS Cleveland (LPD-7) recently volunteered and participated in a community relations project during a three-day port call on the island of Rhodes, Greece.

From the city of Rhodes, the

service members were bussed to the Center for Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation in Faliraki. Along with Sailors from the USS Oscar Austin and USS Donald Cook, who were also in port, the 13th MEU(SOC) warriors became the first U.S. military volunteers ever to help out at the center.

Arriving to the Center in the morning, the Marines and Sailors spent more than five hours painting fences, land-

scaping and performing other odd-jobs around the center.

Navy Lt. Jamie Stall-Ryan, the prior-enlisted Chaplain of the USS Cleveland, coordinated the event and got his hands every bit as dirty and paint-splattered as everyone on the scene, but took time to address the importance of community relations projects around the world.

"I think they spread the
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The Fighting 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable)



Commanding Officer:
Col. James K. LaVine

Public Affairs Officer:
Capt. Amy Malugani

Public Affairs Chief:
Staff Sgt. Houston F. White, Jr.

Editor:
Cpl. Andy Hurt

Combat Correspondent:
Sgt. Charles Moore

Combat Camera:
Cpl. Chad Leddy

Combat Camera:
Cpl. James Evans

Combat Camera:
Lance Cpl. Kyle Keathley

Mail inquiries to:
Commanding Officer
13th Marine Expeditionary Unit
ATTN: Public Affairs Office
42525
FPO AP 96610-2525

Personal Mail:
Grade/Name/USMC
13th MEU (Section)
Unit 42525
FPO AP 96610-2525

From the 13th MEU(SOC) Commanding Officer

Families and Friends,

As America's forward deployed quick reaction force, it's no surprise that the Fighting 13th may be called to respond to various missions in the next three months to include combat operations in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Although we may not know where we will operate or when the call will come, I know the Marines and Sailors of the 13th MEU are trained, focused and ready to execute the mission.

The most effective way to prepare for combat operations is the thorough realistic training that challenges the agility, flexibility

and mental and physical endurance of each Marine. In the past three months alone we have conducted humanitarian assistance operations in the Philippines, sustainment training in Australia and various training exercises with coalition forces in Egypt. We are fully ready for any and all potential missions.

I am aware there may be concerns about the deployment being extended. Presently, we remain on schedule to return in January to Camp Pendleton. As always, we will keep our families and friends updated through our website and Key Volunteer Network as information be-

comes available. Our families back in the states are continually on our minds and we are thankful for your strength and all that you do to support the Marines and Sailors.

Finally, I would ask that while we strive to keep our families updated with current information that we remember the importance of operational security. Preventing military or sensitive personal information from falling into the wrong hands is one of the most important things we do to ensure the safety of our Marines and Sailors.

Semper Fidelis,

Col J. K. La Vine

Hometown Heroes



This month's hometown hero is **Cpl. Matthew Smith** of Tuckerton, N.J. Smith is a warehouse clerk with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit's Command Element Supply Section. The 23 year-old Marine plans to re-enlist in the next few weeks and eventually serve a Special Duty Assignment, such as Drill Instructor Duty.

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good nature of the U.S. and our military," he said. "We're not just 'combat,' we care about people and foreign relations."

Corporal Cochise Fripp, a field radio operator for the 13th MEU (SOC), was one of nine Marines who participated in the project, and shared the Chaplain's views on reaching out to those less fortunate.

"We're not just here for liberty," Fripp exclaimed, "and this shows we do have respect for other countries."

Fripp, a native of Miami, said he felt that simply volunteering for community relations projects wasn't enough.

"It should be mandatory that everyone participates in at least three (community relations projects)," he said. "The kids in the U.S. will see this as an example."

While many of the Marines and Sailors considered the project as "just doing their job," Tasos Spanos, the center's president, took a higher ground in his view of the volunteer effort, and said he

saw the project as progressive step in achieving world peace.

Addressing the volunteers at the end of the day, Spanos presented ceramic plates to U.S. coordinators and offered his perspective of the outcome of such projects.

"I would like to send the American population our thanks. We much appreciate this, and I think it is very kind of you to offer your service," Spanos started. "This shows friendly relations between the U.S. and Greece, which has always been friendly, and shows that we are trying to build a world where everyone could get along. A world with no walls, no terrorists and no poverty. This is helping to build that place."

The project was the most recent project completed by 13th MEU(SOC) and Expeditionary Strike Group One service members.

Similar projects were also coordinated and executed in Hawaii and Australia, and plans for future projects at every port call stop during the Western Pacific Deployment are in the works.

Command Element Family Info/Admin Notes

I MEF Birthday Ball

Family members and friends of the 13th MEU are invited to attend the I Marine Expeditionary Force Marine Corps Birthday Ball Nov. 4 at the Pechanga Casino. Ticket prices for spouses will be based on their service member's rank. All additional guests will need to pay the guest price. Checks should be made out to I MEF Birthday Ball Fund.

Ticket prices are as follows:

Officer: \$65

SNCO: \$55

Sgts. & below: \$40

Guests: \$65

Child care will be provided with the following info: Name, age and special requirements.

There will also be a cash bar on location. The schedule for the evening is as follows:

Social Hour: 5 to 7 p.m.

Ceremony: 7 to 8 p.m.

Dinner: 8 to 9 p.m.

Dancing: 9 p.m. to midnight

Available room prices start at \$169 for the first 100 rooms, and \$199 for the next 50. Reservations can be made by calling (951) 719-8580. Photography will also be available at the event.

For more information and ticket purchasing, contact 1st Lt. Melissa Schroth, I MEF Family Readiness Officer, at (760) 725-9166, or by emailing melissa.schroth@usmc.mil.

Calling all KV's!

All 13th MEU Key Volunteer Network members are invited to attend the Halloween "Spook-tacular" event, scheduled Oct. 29.

From 12 to 3 p.m., families and friends can enjoy an afternoon of

games, food prizes and friendship at the San Onofre Community Center.

There will be a costume contest, and prizes will also be awarded to the member who brings the best appetizer and dessert.

The event is open to families and friends of the 13th MEU Command Element, HMM-163, MSSG-13 and BLT 2/1, including all attachments.

Directions to the San Onofre Community Center: Take I-5, exit Basilone Rd, Go east and head through gate. Follow the road to the first right. You'll see the Community Center and playground on your right, across from the Commissary.

For more information, contact your Key Volunteer Coordinators at (949) 366-0514 or (760) 798-9074.

Savings Deposit Program

Members of the 13th MEU are now eligible to deposit money into the Savings Deposit Program.

The SDP is a Department of Defense-sponsored savings account that allows service members in designated combat zones (or supporting a combat zone for 30 consecutive days) to deposit the amount of one month's basic pay at one time and gain 10 percent annual interest. Cash deposits or pay allotments can be requested. The funds can be kept in the account for 90 days after the service member leaves the combat zone.

The maximum amount of money that can accumulate interest is \$10,000.

For more information, contact the 13th MEU (SOC) dispersing officer, Capt.

13th MEU Warrior Birthdays - October -

Pfc. Samuel Holzknecht - Oct. 8

Radio Recon Team

Sgt. Jason R. Tamarez - Oct. 15

S-4 Embark NCO

Sgt. Johnathan P. Byrne - Oct. 19

S-6 Data Systems Specialist

Cpl. Richard P. Vanlerberg - Oct. 21

RRT Parachute Rigger

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Michael Wadley - Oct. 23

S-3 NBC Officer

Capt. Daniel R. Gohlke - Oct. 25

Radio Bn. Detachment Officer In Charge

Sgt. Tyrone S. Cullors - Oct. 26

S-2 Radio Technician

Anthony Glasgow, by emailing glasgowAD@tarawa.usmc.mil.

published this month at www.usmc.mil/13thmeu.

Tiger Cruise Info

The USS Tarawa is in the process of organizing a "Tiger Cruise" on our return trip from Pearl Harbor to San Diego. The Tiger Cruise is, of course, pending operational involvement of the 13th MEU (SOC).

Our "Tigers" will meet the ship in Hawaii near the end of our deployment and accompany us on our return to homeport.

"Tiger Cruise" is a special guest cruise program where Sailors and Marines are permitted to embark friends and relatives.

The only expense will be the cost of the Tiger's meals while onboard TARAWA.

Look for the "Tiger Sponsorship" form, scheduled to be

13th MEU(SOC) Mailing Addresses

Due to the on going Western Pacific deployment, official and personal mailing addresses have been modified to according to operational conditions.

The official unit mailing address is as follows:

COMMANDING OFFICER
ATTN (SECTION)
13TH MEU
UNIT 42525
FPO AP 96610-2525

The personal mailing address is as follows:

GRADE/NAME/USMC
13TH MEU (SECTION)
UNIT 42525
FPO AP 96610-2525



Photo by Cpl. Chad H. Leddy

An Egyptian soldier watches as Marines from MEU Service Support Group 13, attached to the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, load up U.S. Army trucks with gear brought ashore in support of Exercise Bright Star, Sept. 13.

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offload ground forces and essential equipment.

The ESG-1 commander, Navy Rear Admiral Michael LeFever observed Marines and Sailors working together with coalition forces from the beach.

“The ESG proved the ability to work as part of a coalition. The Greek, Egyptian and Jordanian forces seamlessly integrated into our amphibious operations, and we staged a very successful landing,” he said.

The second wave of the assault hit the beach in seven U.S. Amphibious Assault Vehicles (AAV) and five Egyptian Topaz vehicles carrying Egyptian infantry and U.S. Marines from Echo Company, Battalion Landing Team 2/1.

The initial waves of an assault provide supporting arms and direct fire as directed based on the enemy situation. Leading assault elements cleared sufficient space across the beach in depth, to ensure secure offloading of incoming landing craft.

The next wave of the assault carried the preponderance of coalition forces and equipment. Egyptian, Jordanian, U.S. and Greek forces approached the beach in United States and Greek landing crafts utility, known as LCUs, and landing crafts air cushioned, commonly referred as LCAC, which originally departed from the USS Pearl Harbor.

The last wave of the demonstration consisted of one United States LCU carrying two Egyptian 155mm Howitzer guns. Coalition commanders and honored guests watched as the LCUs landed and offloaded at the center of the beach.

The final waves of amphibious assaults provide equipment and logistics necessary to sustain forces and operations ashore.

Abizaid showed his appreciation of the demonstration to Marines from BLT 2/1's Light Armored Reconnaissance Platoon, greeting Marines with firm handshakes and presenting them with his commander's coin.

One of the Marines recognized was Sgt. David Nygren of LAR platoon, who summed up his part in the demonstration.

“Although we only had a small piece in the demo today, I think we (the U.S. Navy and Marines) showed we can effectively work together with coalition forces.”



Photo by Cpl. Chad H. Leddy

Egyptian soldiers aboard Zodiac water craft conduct an amphibious landing during a demonstration in support of Exercise Bright Star, Sept. 13. The six-week exercise affords U.S. service members the opportunity to build awareness and relationships with the host nation of Egypt and fellow coalition forces.

BRIGHT



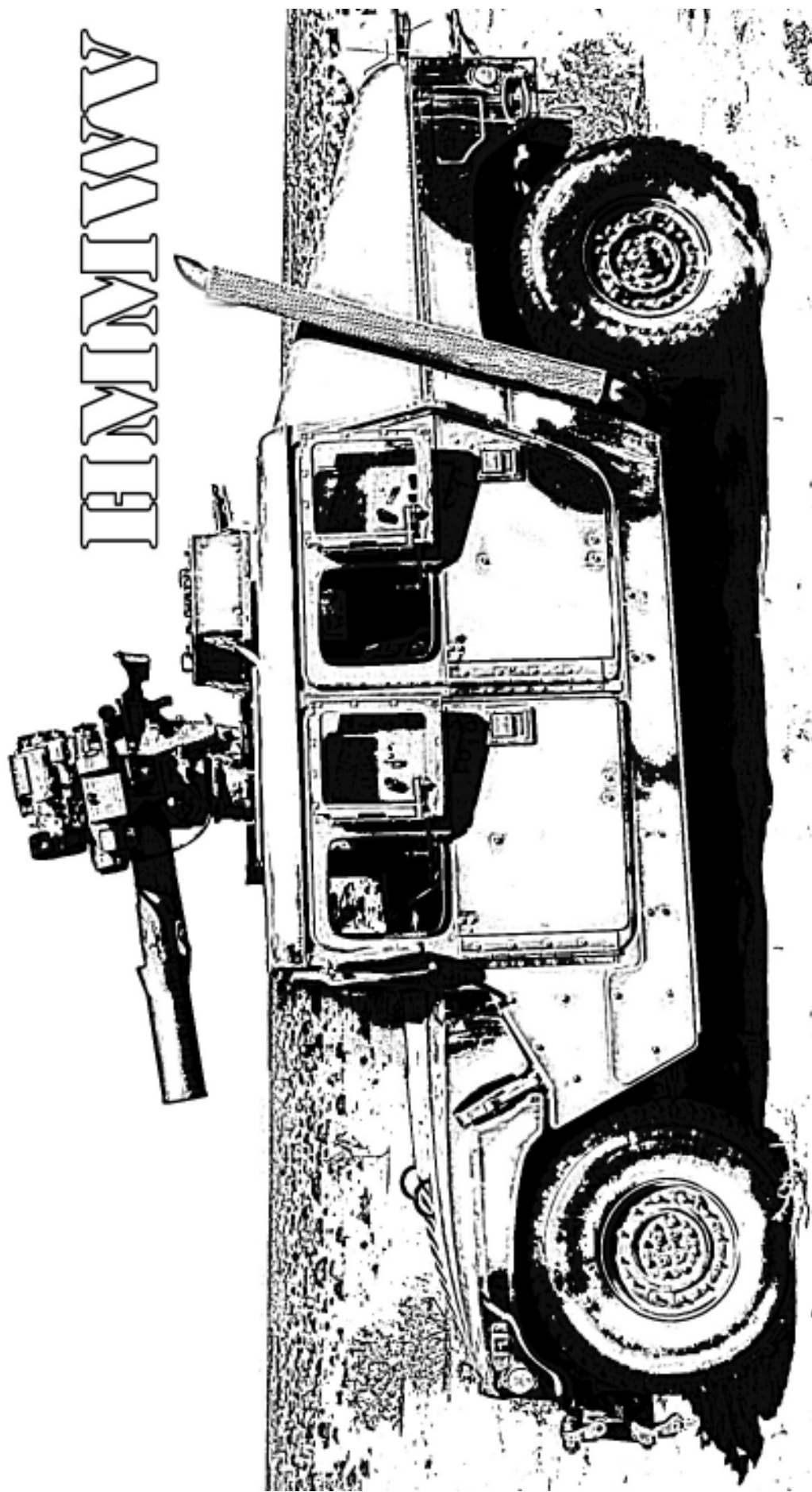
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Photos by 13th MEU (SOC) Public Affairs Office/Combat Camera - Continued on next page ...

Exercise Bright Star 2005 - Egypt (cont'd)

For more Bright Star photos and information, visit www.usmc.mil/13thmeu

M998 HIGH MOBILITY MULTI-PURPOSE WHEELED VEHICLE



Coloring Page!

Kids AND adults: Color this page and write a message to a Marine or Sailor of the Fighting 13th MEU. Mail your page to:

Commanding Officer
ATTN: PAO
13th MEU
Unit 42525
FPO AP 96610-2525

We'll take sent masterpieces and post them aboard the ship! Remember:
Have fun and we look forward to your artistic expression!